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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS

Effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights

Report of the Secretary-General

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In paragraph 24 of its resolution 50/170 of 22 December 1995, entitled "Effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights", the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-first session on measures taken to implement the resolution and on obstacles to its implementation. The present report has been prepared in accordance with that request.

II. ISSUES DEALT WITH BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 50/170 REQUIRING ACTION BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OR THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

A. Financing and adequate staff and information resources for the operation of the human rights treaty bodies (para. 2 of resolution 50/170)

2. The General Assembly emphasized the need to ensure financing and adequate staff and information resources for the operations of the human rights treaty bodies, and with that in mind: (a) reiterated its request that the Secretary-General provide adequate resources in respect of each treaty body; and (b) called upon the Secretary-General to make the most efficient use of existing resources and to seek the resources necessary to give the treaty bodies adequate administrative support, access to technical expertise and access to appropriate databases and on-line information services.

1. Resources and administrative support

3. The five international human rights instruments with monitoring mechanisms currently supported by the Centre for Human Rights are the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

4. The work of the staff assigned to provide support to the respective treaty bodies established listed above is mainly associated with: (a) the State reporting procedures under all five human rights instruments; (b) the individual complaints procedures under the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; and (c) the inquiry procedure under article 20 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

5. At the time of preparation of the present report, a new management structure is being put in place in the Centre for Human Rights within the context of the process of its overall restructuring (see A/C.5/50/71). All secretariat activities supporting the treaty bodies will be regrouped in Management Unit II.

6. It may be noted in this connection that the reductions in the budget of the United Nations decided by the General Assembly for the biennium 1996-1997, which involve the freezing of posts and the reduction in financial resources for each and every sector of the Secretariat, are also affecting staff and other resources assigned to support the activities of the treaty bodies.

2. Access to technical expertise, appropriate databases and on-line information

7. It may be recalled that pursuant to a recommendation of the persons chairing human rights treaty bodies and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1989/46, a Task Force on Computerization was established to examine the question of computerization of the work of the treaty bodies. In its report to the Commission (E/CN.4/1990/39), the Task Force recommended computerization as an essential measure to facilitate compliance by States parties with their reporting obligations and to increase the efficiency of the treaty bodies and it urged that a database be developed for the treaty bodies.

8. In accordance with Commission resolution 1990/21 of 23 February 1990 and other subsequent resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, the Secretary-General invited States Members of the United Nations in 1992 and again in 1995 to make generous one-time contributions for the establishment of the proposed database, costs for which in 1990 had been estimated at US$ 508,500. As at 1 July 1996, $111,643 had been received. The contributions were used to develop a full-text

information retrieval and database system. At present the system contains information concerning the Convention on the Rights of the Child and is operational only with respect to that treaty. The members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child were given access to the database.

9. The time-frame in which the system will become operational for the other treaty bodies depends on the availability of resources for data entry and downloading of full-text documents. Funds available were spent, in particular, to purchase equipment such as computers, compact disk read-only memory (CD-ROM) facilities and other hardware, a server, user licences and other software for the system, consultant's fees to install the equipment and to develop the database system and technical training for the staff members.

B. Measures to ensure that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Committee against Torture meet as scheduled (para. 6 of resolution 50/170)

10. The General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue to take the necessary measures to ensure that both the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Committee against Torture meet as scheduled until the amendments to the Conventions under which they are established enter into force.

11. It may be recalled that, in accordance with the amendments adopted by the States parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, as endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/111 of 16 December 1992, the activities of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Committee against Torture have been financed under the regular budget of the United Nations since January 1994.

12. The Secretary-General has reported to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session on the financial situation of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and on the arrears of States parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination from the non-payment of previous assessments (A/51/430). In accordance with normal practice, States parties to that Convention as well as States parties to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment whose contributions due up to 1993 are still outstanding in full or in part are regularly requested to fulfil their obligations.

13. As at 20 August 1996, 17 States parties of the 86 required for the entry into force of the amendment to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and 17 States parties of the 45 required for the entry into force of the amendment to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment had notified the Secretary-General that they had accepted the amendments.

C. Final version of the interim report (A/CONF.157/PC/62/Add.11/Rev.1) on possible long-term approaches to enhancing the effective operation of the treaty system (para. 9 of resolution 50/170)

14. The General Assembly encouraged the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to request Mr. Philip Alston, the expert appointed to undertake the study, to finalize his interim report in time for the final report to be considered by the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-second session.

15. Owing to unforeseen circumstances, Mr. Alston was unable to submit his final report in time for the fifty-second session of the Commission but intends to do so for the fifty-third session of the Commission.

D. Revision of the Manual on Human Rights Reporting (para. 10 of resolution 50/170)

16. The General Assembly requested the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to ensure, from within existing resources, that the revision of the United Nations Manual on Human Rights Reporting be completed as soon as possible.

17. Action has been initiated to revise the Manual on Human Rights Reporting and to include in the revised version a chapter on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, as requested by the persons chairing human rights treaty bodies. Treaty body experts have been consulted with respect to the revision of the manual, which is scheduled to be published by the end of 1996.

E. Dissemination of documentation on human rights (para. 17 of resolution 50/170)

18. The General Assembly requested the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to make every effort to ensure that recent reports and the summary records of committee discussions pertaining to them, as well as concluding observations and final comments of the treaty bodies, be made available in the United Nations information centres in the countries submitting those reports.

19. Extensive consultations between the Centre for Human Rights and the Department of Public Information took place to explore ways and means to implement the General Assembly's request. A procedure has been put in place to ensure that reports submitted by States parties to treaty bodies and the concluding observations of treaty bodies be made available to the relevant United Nations information centres prior to and after the consideration of treaty implementation in a given State party.

F. Further cooperation between specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies and the human rights treaty bodies (para. 18 of resolution 50/170)

20. The General Assembly invited the specialized agencies, other United Nations bodies and the treaty bodies to continue to pursue further cooperation between them, bearing in mind the responsibilities of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the desirability of avoiding unnecessary duplication.

21. In 1995, the High Commissioner established contacts with the World Bank, which led to consultations between the two institutions at Washington, D.C., on 24 and 25 July 1996. It may be recalled that the idea of cooperation between the Bretton Woods and other financial institutions and the United Nations human rights programme was endorsed by the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights, especially in the context of the right to development. The adoption by the High Commissioner of a comprehensive approach to human rights and the World Bank's focus on sustainable development have provided a sound basis for such cooperation between the two institutions, the need of which was stressed during the meeting of the High Commissioner and the President of the World Bank.

22. The purpose of the consultations was to explore, in the context of the programmes aimed at promotion and protection of human rights and sustainable development, various aspects of possible cooperation between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights and the World Bank as well as between the two institutions with other partners, including Governments, international organizations, expert bodies, etc. Four major areas for cooperation were identified: exploring cooperation on specific country projects, cooperation in the field, exchange of information and mutual training of staff on the activities of the two institutions.

23. On 18 July 1996, the High Commissioner arranged a meeting in New York with the Executive Secretaries of the United Nations regional economic commissions to discuss how the United Nations human rights programme and the work of the regional commissions could be mutually reinforcing in order to effectively promote the implementation of the right to development and economic, social and cultural rights. This fruitful meeting will be followed by practical cooperation in the discussed areas. The Secretary-General also addressed the meeting.

24. On 15 August 1996, the Bureau of the Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Bureau of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities held a joint meeting to discuss a proposal to undertake a study of all aspects of the implementation of article 7 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, concerning measures against prejudices, which lead to racial discrimination and promoting understanding, tolerance and friendship among nations and racial or ethnic groups. A joint working paper prepared by experts from the Committee and the Subcommission will be submitted to the two bodies at their respective sessions in August 1997.

25. Furthermore, in accordance with a recommendation made by the persons chairing human rights treaty bodies at their 6th meeting in September 1995, the High Commissioner invited high-level officials of specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies to meet with the chairpersons during their 7th meeting held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 16 to 20 September 1996, in order to discuss concrete proposals and practical arrangements to enhance cooperation between United Nations specialized agencies and organs on the one hand, and human rights treaty bodies on the other hand.

26. Ms. Akila Belembaogo, chairperson of the 6th meeting of persons chairing human rights treaty bodies, participated in the 3rd meeting of special rapporteurs, representatives, experts and chairpersons of working groups of the special procedures of the Commission on Human Rights and of the Advisory Services Programme, held at the United Nations Office in Geneva from 28 to 30 May 1996. Mr. Bacre N'diaye, chairperson of that meeting, was invited to address the persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies during their meeting in September.

27. Ms. Elizabeth Rehn, Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the former Yugoslavia, participated in a meeting of the Committee on the Rights of the Child during its eleventh session in January 1996.

G. Consultations of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights with human rights treaty bodies (para. 19 of resolution 50/170

28. The General Assembly invited the High Commissioner to consult the human rights treaty bodies in his efforts to promote cooperation with regional intergovernmental organizations where appropriate for the promotion and protection of human rights.

29. The High Commissioner regularly informs the human rights treaty bodies about national, regional and subregional workshops, training courses and seminars organized by the Centre for Human Rights for interested government officials on the implementation of international human rights instruments. Treaty body experts are usually invited to participate in those events as resource persons. Additionally, the High Commissioner invites regional intergovernmental organizations to be represented at the meetings of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies.

30. At present, the secretariat of the European Commission of Human Rights has agreed to provide the Centre for Human Rights regularly with information on its case-law. Arrangements are being discussed to make the databases of the European Commission of Human Rights, the European Court of Human Rights and the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe accessible to the Centre.

H. Coordination and consultation by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on measures by human rights treaty bodies (para. 23 of resolution 50/170)

31. The General Assembly requested the High Commissioner to coordinate and consult throughout the United Nations system in regard to measures that may be taken by human rights treaty bodies in response to situations of massive human rights violations.

32. It may be recalled that the question of measures that treaty bodies may take in response to situations of massive human rights violations and the coordination of action with other United Nations organs and bodies in that regard was at the heart of a meeting between the Secretary-General and the persons chairing human rights treaty bodies which was held at United Nations Headquarters on 19 June 1995 with the participation of the High Commissioner.

33. At their 6th meeting, in September 1995, the chairpersons recommended that treaty bodies increasingly consult United Nations organs and bodies, including special rapporteurs of the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, exchange information and utilize existing expertise in order to detect and respond appropriately to situations of massive violations of human rights.

34. Those recommendations were brought to the attention of the third meeting of special rapporteurs, representatives, experts and chairpersons of working groups of the special procedures of the Commission on Human Rights and of the Advisory Services Programme in May 1996. As referred to in paragraph 26 above the Chairperson of the 6th meeting of persons chairing human rights treaty bodies addressed the participants. They agreed that cooperation between the special procedures system and the treaty bodies should be strengthened in cases that call for the sending of urgent action appeals.

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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS

Status of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, by its resolution 39/46 of 10 December 1984, adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, contained in the annex to that resolution, and called upon all Governments to consider signing and ratifying the Convention as a matter of priority.

2. The Convention was opened for signature in New York on 4 February 1985. In accordance with article 27 thereof, the Convention entered into force on 26 June 1987, on the thirtieth day after the date of the deposit with the Secretary-General of the twentieth instrument of ratification or accession.

3. In its resolution 49/177 of 23 December 1994, the General Assembly commended the Committee against Torture for its excellent report 1/ in its modified presentation and for the improvement in its working methods; emphasized the importance of the strictest compliance by States parties with their obligations under the Convention; and urged all States parties to the Convention to notify the Secretary-General of their acceptance of the amendments to articles 17 and 18 of the Convention as soon as possible. 2/ Further, the Assembly welcomed the attention that the Committee had given to the development of an effective system of reporting on the implementation of the Convention by States parties, and especially its revision of its general guidelines for the submission of reports by States parties, as well as its practice of formulating concluding observations after the consideration of such reports. The Assembly welcomed also the continuing close contacts and exchange of information, reports and documents between the Committee against Torture and the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on questions relating to torture; requested

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the Secretary-General to ensure the provision of appropriate staff and facilities for the effective performance of the functions of the Committee; urged all States that had not yet done so to become parties to the Convention as a matter of priority; invited all States ratifying or acceding to the Convention and those States parties which had not yet done so to make the declarations provided for in articles 21 and 22 of the Convention and to consider the possibility of withdrawing their reservations to article 20; and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session a report on the status of the Convention.

4. The Commission on Human rights, at its fifty-second session, adopted resolution 1996/33 A of 19 April 1996, in which it welcomed the Committee's practice of carrying out inquiries into cases where there were indications of the systematic practice of torture in States parties; reminded all States that paragraph 60 of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action read: "States should abrogate legislation leading to impunity for those responsible for grave violations of human rights such as torture and prosecute such violations, thereby providing a firm basis for the rule of law"; emphasized the obligation of States parties under article 10 of the Convention to ensure education and training for personnel who might be involved in the custody, interrogation or treatment of any individual subjected to any form of arrest, detention or imprisonment, and called upon the High Commissioner for Human Rights, in conformity with his mandate established in General Assembly resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993, to provide, at the request of Governments, advisory services in that regard, as well as technical assistance in the development, production and distribution of appropriate teaching material for the purpose.

5. As at 3 September 1996, the Convention had been ratified or acceded to by 99 States. In addition, 13 States has signed the Convention. The list of States that have signed, ratified or acceded to the Convention, as well as the dates of their signature, ratification or accession, is contained in the annex to the present report.

6. As at the same date, 37 of the States parties to the Convention, namely Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uruguay, Venezuela and Yugoslavia, had made the declarations provided for in articles 21 and 22 of the Convention. In addition, two States parties, namely the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, had made the declaration provided for in article 21 only, thus bringing the total number of declarations under that article to 39. Under article 21, a State party to the Convention may declare at any time that it recognizes the competence of the Committee against Torture to receive and consider communications to the effect that a State party claims that another State party is not fulfilling its obligations under the Convention. Under article 22, a State party to the Convention may declare at any time that it recognizes the competence of the Committee to receive and consider communications from or on behalf of individuals subject to its jurisdiction who claim to be victims of a violation by a State party of the provisions of the Convention.

7. The provisions of articles 21 and 22 entered into force on 26 June 1987 in accordance with paragraph 2 of article 21 and paragraph 8 of article 22.

8. The fifth meeting of the States parties to the Convention was convened by the Secretary-General at the United Nations Office at Geneva on 29 November 1995 to elect five members of the Committee against Torture to replace those whose terms of office were due to expire on 31 December 1995. In accordance with article 17 of the Convention, five members of the Committee against Torture were elected for a term of four years beginning 1 January 1996. Accordingly, the membership of the Committee for 1996-1997 is as follows:

Mr. Peter Thomas Burns (Canada)

Mr. Guibril Camara (Senegal)

Mr. Alexis Dipanda Mouelle (Cameroon)

Mr. Alejandro González Poblete (Chile)

Ms. Julia Iliopoulos-Strangas (Greece)

Mr. Georghios M. Pikis (Cyprus)

Mr. Mukunda Regmi (Nepal)

Mr. Bent Sorensen (Denmark)

Mr. Alexander M. Yakovlev (Russian Federation)

Mr. Bostjan M. Zupancic (Slovenia)

9. The Committee against Torture held its thirteenth, fourteenth, fifteenth and sixteenth sessions at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 7 to 18 November 1994, from 24 April to 5 May 1995, from 13 to 24 November 1995 and from 30 April to 10 May 1996, respectively. In accordance with article 24 of the Convention, the Committee submitted its annual reports, 3/ covering its activities at the sessions referred to above, to the States parties and to the General Assembly at its fiftieth and fifty-first sessions.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 44 (A/49/44).

2/ Adopted by the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on 9 September 1992 in accordance with article 29, paragraph 1, of the Convention (CAT/SP/SR.4) and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/111 of 16 December 1992.

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 44 (A/50/44); ibid., Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 44 (A/51/44).

ANNEX

List of States which have signed, ratified or acceded to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment as at 3 September 1996

State	Date of signature	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification, accession or succession
Afghanistan	4 February 1985	1 April 1987
Albania		11 May 1994 b/
Algeria a/	26 November 1985	12 September 1989
Antigua and Barbuda		19 July 1993 b/
Argentina a/	4 February 1985	24 September 1986
Armenia		13 September 1993 b/
Australia a/	10 December 1985	8 August 1989
Austria a/	14 March 1985	29 July 1987
Azerbaijan		16 August 1996 b/
Belarus	19 December 1985	13 March 1987
Belgium	4 February 1985	
Belize		17 March 1986 b/
Benin		12 March 1992 b/
Bolivia	4 February 1985	
Bosnia and Herzegovina		6 March 1992 c/
Brazil	23 September 1985	28 September 1989
Bulgaria a/	10 June 1986	16 December 1986
Burundi		18 February 1993 b/
Cambodia		15 October 1992 b/
Cameroon		19 December 1986 b/
Canada a/	23 August 1985	24 June 1987
Cape Verde		4 June 1992 b/
Chad		9 June 1995 b/
Chile	23 September 1987	30 September 1988
China	12 December 1986	4 October 1988
Colombia	10 April 1985	8 December 1987
Costa Rica	4 February 1985	11 November 1993
Côte d'Ivoire		18 December 1995 b/
Croatia a/		8 October 1991 c/
Cuba	27 January 1986	17 May 1995

State	Date of signature	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification, accession or succession
Cyprus a/	9 October 1985	18 July 1991
Czech Republic a/		1 January 1993 c/
Denmark a/	4 February 1985	27 May 1987
Dominican Republic	4 February 1985	
Ecuador a/	4 February 1985	30 March 1988
Egypt		25 June 1986 b/
El Salvador		17 June 1996 b/
Estonia		21 October 1991 b/
Ethiopia		14 March 1994 b/
Finland a/	4 February 1985	30 August 1989
France a/	4 February 1985	18 February 1986
Gabon	21 January 1986	
Gambia	23 October 1985	
Georgia		26 October 1994 b/
Germany	13 October 1986	1 October 1990
Greece a/	4 February 1985	6 October 1988
Guatemala		5 January 1990 b/
Guinea	30 May 1986	10 October 1989
Guyana	25 January 1988	19 May 1988
Hungary a/	28 November 1986	15 April 1987
Iceland	4 February 1985	
Indonesia	23 October 1985	
Ireland	28 September 1992	
Israel	22 October 1986	3 October 1991
Italy a/	4 February 1985	12 January 1989
Jordan		13 November 1991 b/
Kuwait		8 March 1996 b/
Latvia		14 April 1992 b/
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya		16 May 1989 b/
Liechtenstein a/	27 June 1985	2 November 1990
Lithuania		1 February 1996 b/
Luxembourg a/	22 February 1985	29 September 1987
Malawi		11 June 1996 b/
Malta a/		13 September 1990 b/
Mauritius		9 December 1992 b/

State	Date of signature	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification, accession or succession
Mexico	18 March 1985	23 January 1986
Monaco a/		6 December 1991 b/
Morocco	8 January 1986	21 June 1993
Namibia		28 November 1994 b/
Nepal		14 May 1991 b/
Netherlands a/	4 February 1985	21 December 1988
New Zealand a/	14 January 1986	10 December 1989
Nicaragua	15 April 1985	
Nigeria	28 July 1988	
Norway a/	4 February 1985	9 July 1986
Panama	22 February 1985	24 August 1987
Paraguay	23 October 1989	12 March 1990
Peru	29 May 1985	7 July 1988
Philippines		18 June 1986 b/
Poland a/	13 January 1986	26 July 1989
Portugal a/	4 February 1985	9 February 1989
Republic of Korea		9 January 1995 b/
Republic of Moldova		28 November 1995 b/
Romania		18 December 1990 b/
Russian Federation a/	10 December 1985	3 March 1987
Senegal	4 February 1985	21 August 1986
Seychelles		5 May 1992 b/
Sierra Leone	18 March 1985	
Slovakia		29 May 1993 b/
Slovenia a/		16 July 1993 b/
Somalia		24 January 1990 b/
South Africa	29 January 1993	
Spain a/	4 February 1985	21 October 1987
Sri Lanka		3 January 1994 b/
Sudan	4 June 1986	
Sweden a/	4 February 1985	8 January 1986
Switzerland a/	4 February 1985	2 December 1986
Tajikistan		11 January 1995 b/
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia		12 December 1994 c/
Togo a/	25 March 1987	18 November 1987

State	Date of signature	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification, accession or succession
Tunisia a/	26 August 1987	23 September 1988
Turkey a/	25 January 1988	2 August 1988
Uganda		3 November 1986 b/
Ukraine	27 February 1986	24 February 1987
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland d/	15 March 1985	8 December 1988
United States of America d/	18 April 1988	21 October 1994
Uruguay a/	4 February 1985	24 October 1986
Uzbekistan		28 September 1995 b/
Venezuela a/	15 February 1985	29 July 1991
Yemen		5 November 1991 b/
Yugoslavia a/	18 April 1989	10 September 1991
Zaire		18 March 1996 b/

Notes

a/ Made the declaration under articles 21 and 22 of the Convention.

b/ Accession.

c/ Succession.

d/ Made the declaration under article 21 of the Convention.

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ELIMINATION OF RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Status of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 3380 (XXX) of 10 November 1975, requested the Secretary-General to submit to it an annual report on the status of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid. A list of the 100 States that have signed, ratified or acceded to the Convention as at 31 August 1996 is contained in the annex.

2. In its resolution 1995/10 of 17 February 1995, the Commission on Human Rights decided not to consider the item entitled "Implementation of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid" and to suspend meetings of the Group of Three established under article IX of the Convention as from the date of adoption of that resolution.

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ANNEX

List of States that have signed, ratified or acceded to the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid as at 1 August 1996

State	Date of signature	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification, accession or succession
Afghanistan		6 July 1983 a/
Algeria	23 January 1974	26 May 1982
Antigua and Barbuda		7 October 1982 a/
Argentina	6 June 1975	7 November 1985
Armenia		23 June 1993
Azerbaijan		16 August 1996 a/
Bahamas		31 March 1981 a/
Bahrain		27 March 1990 a/
Bangladesh		5 February 1985 a/
Barbados		7 February 1979 a/
Belarus	4 March 1974	2 December 1975
Benin	7 October 1974	30 December 1974
Bolivia		6 October 1993 b/
Bosnia and Herzegovina		1 September 1993 b/
Bulgaria	27 June 1974	18 July 1974
Burkina Faso	3 February 1976	24 October 1978
Burundi		12 July 1978 a/
Cambodia		28 July 1981 a/
Cameroon		1 November 1976 a/
Cape Verde		12 June 1979 a/
Central African Republic		8 May 1981 a/
Chad	23 October 1974	23 October 1974
China		18 April 1983 a/
Colombia		23 May 1988 a/
Congo		5 October 1983 a/
Costa Rica		15 October 1986 a/
Croatia		12 October 1992 b/
Cuba		1 February 1977 a/
Czech Republic		22 February 1993 b/
Ecuador	12 March 1975	12 May 1975
Egypt		13 June 1977 a/
El Salvador		30 November 1979 a/
Estonia		21 October 1991 a/
Ethiopia		19 September 1978 a/
Gabon		29 February 1980 a/
Gambia		29 December 1978 a/
Ghana		1 August 1978 a/
Guinea	1 March 1974	3 March 1975
Guyana		30 September 1977 a/
Haiti		19 December 1977 a/

State	Date of signature	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification, accession or succession
Hungary	26 April 1974	20 June 1974
India		22 September 1977 a/
Iran (Islamic Republic of)		18 April 1985 a/
Iraq	1 July 1975	9 July 1975
Jamaica	30 March 1976	18 February 1977
Jordan	5 June 1974	1 July 1992
Kuwait		23 February 1977 a/
Lao People's Democratic Republic		5 October 1981 a/
Latvia		14 April 1992 a/
Lesotho		4 November 1983 a/
Liberia		5 November 1976 a/
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya		8 July 1976 a/
Madagascar		26 May 1977 a/
Maldives		24 April 1984 a/
Mali		19 August 1977 a/
Mauritania		13 December 1988 a/
Mexico		4 March 1980 a/
Mongolia	17 May 1974	8 August 1975
Mozambique		18 April 1983 a/
Namibia		11 November 1982 a/
Nepal		12 July 1977 a/
Nicaragua		28 March 1980 a/
Niger		28 June 1978 a/
Nigeria	26 June 1974	31 March 1977
Oman	3 April 1974	22 August 1991
Panama	7 May 1976	16 March 1977
Pakistan		27 February 1986 a/
Peru		1 November 1978 a/
Philippines	2 May 1974	26 January 1978
Poland	7 June 1974	15 March 1976
Qatar	18 March 1975	19 March 1975
Romania	6 September 1974	15 August 1978
Russian Federation	12 February 1974	26 November 1975
Rwanda	15 October 1974	23 January 1981
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines		9 November 1981 a/
Sao Tome and Principe		5 October 1979 a/
Senegal		18 February 1977 a/
Seychelles		13 February 1978 a/
Slovakia		28 May 1993 b/
Slovenia		6 July 1992 b/
Somalia	2 August 1974	28 January 1975
Sri Lanka		18 February 1982 a/
Sudan	10 October 1974	21 March 1977
Suriname		3 June 1980 a/
Syrian Arab Republic	17 January 1974	18 June 1976

State	Date of signature	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification, accession or succession
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia		18 January 1994 b/
Togo		24 May 1984 a/
Trinidad and Tobago	7 April 1975	29 October 1979
Tunisia		21 January 1977 a/
Uganda	11 March 1975	10 June 1986
Ukraine	20 February 1974	10 November 1975
United Arab Emirates	9 September 1975	15 October 1975
United Republic of Tanzania		11 June 1976 a/
Venezuela		28 January 1983 a/
Viet Nam		9 June 1981 a/
Yemen		17 August 1987 a/
Yugoslavia	17 October 1974	1 July 1975
Zaire		11 July 1978 a/
Zambia		14 February 1983 a/
Zimbabwe		13 May 1991 a/

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a/ Accession.

b/ Succession.